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Human Rights Developments

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Chilean police arrested 12 Christian Democratic Party leaders on 12 January charging them with conducting an illegal political meeting. Two days later the group was banished to the remote north of the country. Other Christian Democratic leaders are concerned about the severity of the punishment, especially since the health of several of the detainees might be jeopardized by the harsh northern climate. Although the government's action, carried out with full knowledge of the media, may be the first hint of a crackdown on all political activity, it is more likely a warning that only a limited amount of politicking will be tolerated.

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